



## State of Connecticut

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

#### Testimony

#### **SB 375 An Act Concerning Rental Car Cost Reimbursement and used Motor Vehicles Warranties General Law Committee March 10, 2014**

Senator Doyle, , Representative Barum, Senator Witkos ,Representative Carter and distinguished members of the General Law Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 375.

We support SB 375 because it will undoubtedly protect consumers who buy used vehicles in the State of Connecticut. This issue was brought to our attention by a Naugatuck resident who suffered great financial strain after purchasing a used vehicle that was not repaired in a timely manner and the dealer would not refund the purchase price.

The current language of CGS 42-226, does not protect consumers after they have bought a faulty used vehicle and repairs are not done in a reasonable time and the dealer refuses to refund the purchase price. Some consumers are left with no other means of transportation or funding to purchase another vehicle which subjects them to an infinite amount of rental fees.

When buying a used vehicle, it is the necessary responsibility of the consumer to research the vehicles history, to ensure that the vehicle is safe, and in proper running condition. But, what happens when all of these measures have been taken, and the minute you take the vehicle off the lot, problem after problem occurs? You bring the vehicle back to the dealership and they "attempt" to fix it, presumably under its warranty, but the repairs may take a long period of time and/or the problem can continue to persist.

If the consumer has no other vehicle to drive he or she is forced to pay rental fees until his or her vehicle is fixed. If the problem does persist, as you can imagine, this could become quite costly for the consumer who now has a vehicle payment, insurance payment, and a rental fee to pay.

The new bill language added to Section 1 of CGS 42-221 will address this problem that affects many individuals who buy used vehicles in the State of Connecticut. SB 375 will ensure that consumers are protected when buying used vehicles by acquiring that all warranties include the reasonable payments of rental fees incurred when buying a faulty used motor vehicle.

Thank you for raising this proposal and we look forward to working with the committee to move this forward.

Representative Rosa Rebimbas, 70th District

Representative Dave Labriola, 131<sup>st</sup> District

Senator Joe Crisco, 17<sup>th</sup> District

Senator Joan Hartley, 15<sup>th</sup> District